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KOBRESIA MACROCARPA **LARGE FRUITED KOBRESIA**

Large-fruited Kobresia is a tufted perennial with stems up to 20 cm high. The slender, wiry leaves are less than 1 mm wide and much shorter than the stem. The old, brown leaf bases are persistent at the stem base. Foliage is glabrous. The flowers are borne at the end of the stem in a slender, solitary spike that is 4-5 mm wide and 1-2 cm long. Each scale of the spike subtends 1-2 flowers, that are either male, female, or both. The 3-sided achene is loosely wrapped with a brown scale-like perigynium that is 5-6 mm long. Fruit matures in late July-August.

This species could be confused with *KOBRESIA BELLARDII*, *CAREX ELYNOIDES* or *C. SCIRPOIDEA*, all of which have narrower spikes, usually less than 4 mm wide. The former two species occur in drier habitats. A hand lens and technical key are needed for positive identification.